

Standish Monument



HISTORIC · DUXBURY

BY

GERSHOM BRADFORD

974.48
B799



Historic Duxbury

in

Plymouth County
Massachusetts

by

GERSHOM BRADFORD

*"Children of faith, they walked by future light;
The glory not yet come illumed their way."*

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BOSTON

1920

HISTORIC DUXBURY.

CAPTAIN'S HILL AND STANDISH MONUMENT.

A native of Duxbury holds a peculiar affection for the monument crowning the hill that rises near the site of Captain Myles Standish's house. It is a landmark of home, a welcome object for the mariner coming on the coast as well as for the toiling fisherman setting his offshore trawls.

This handsome memorial to the Pilgrim captain was erected largely through private subscription, and the indefatigable efforts of the officers of the Standish Monument Association. The cornerstone was laid in 1872, but it was not entirely completed until 1898.

The dimensions are:

Diameter of base	28 feet
Diameter of top	16 feet
Height from foundation to parapet	116 feet
Height of statue on top	14 feet

The monument is constructed of rough granite from the Hallowell quarries. The arch of the entrance is built by stones contributed by the several New England States, and bear their names. The keystone was presented by President Grant, and represents the United States.

Captain's Hill, on which the monument stands, was part of the farm given Captain Standish by the Plymouth Colony. At its foot in plain sight is the place where stood his house, where he lived until his death; and the house said to have been built by his son in 1666 still stands near by.

The hill is about two hundred feet above tide water, and is the highest eminence in the vicinity. It has had a history apart from and since the time of Standish, as it was used as a place for signalling in the Revolutionary and 1812 wars, and a few years back was clear of trees and underbrush, when used for pasturage, as at that time cattle were more plentiful than now.

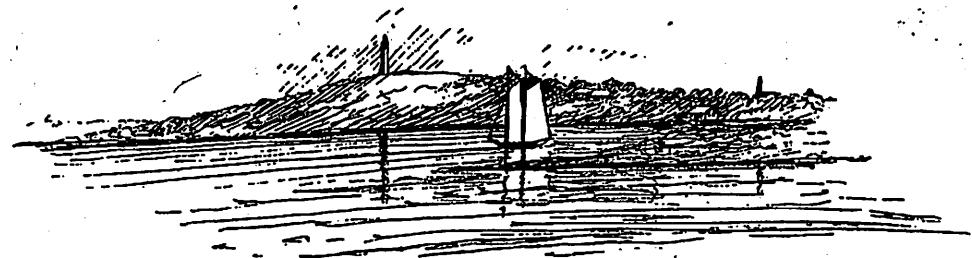
"Scenes must be beautiful which daily viewed,
Please daily, and whose novelty survives
Long knowledge, and the scrutiny of years,—
Praise justly due to those that I describe."

From the summit of this hill a fine view is given of the bay, islands and various places of historic interest in the vicinity, as

HISTORIC DUXBURY.

we follow around by the points of the compass until we have completed the circle, noting the objects in view and the location of others not so plainly seen.

Beginning at the Duxbury Light, that lies below us in a southeasterly direction at the mouth of Duxbury and Plymouth bays, and marks the end of a shoal that leads out from the points of land to the northward. This lighthouse was not built till 1871. This side of the light is a deep area and good anchorage ground called the Cow Yard, which was much used in stress of weather in former times, and considerably at present. Turning now to



the eastward, and bearing a little south of east, these highlands lie in a bunch,—Saquish Point, Clark's Island and Gurnet Head. The nearest, Clark's Island, was named for the mate of the "Mayflower," who was said to be the first to place foot upon it, on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1620, two days before the landing at Plymouth. This was an exploring party from the "Mayflower," then lying in Cape Cod Harbor.

The island contains eighty-four acres of good soil, and is much used for pasturage; it has been held mostly by one family since 1690. In range with Clark's Island, and about two miles distant is the Gurnet, a widening out of the beach, and much higher in elevation, something like fifty feet above tide water, which has a good soil, and in early times was wooded. The name Gurnet first appears in Winslow's Relation, printed in